UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

ACC

ACC/1992/2
15 April 1992

Administrative Committee
on Coordination

ENGLISH ONLY

ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE
New York, 10-13 February 1992

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

INTRODUCTION

1. The Organizational Committee met at United Nations Headquarters, from 10 to 13 February 1992. The Committee reviewed and approved the programme of work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) for 1992, prepared the annual overview report of ACC for 1991 and considered a number of other matters. The list of participants is contained in annex I to the present document.

I. PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION

2. The Organizational Committee, on behalf of ACC, approved the programme of work of ACC for 1992 (ACC/1992/1). The Committee had an extensive discussion of how ACC might adapt and respond to rapidly changing conditions. New approaches and methods of work were considered. The Committee reiterated that the agendas for ACC meetings should be selective and limited to a relatively few items. As a general principle it was suggested and generally accepted that ACC sessions should have a policy discussion on one or two topics of particular relevance upon which there was a need for cooperation and coordination. Consideration would also be given to a variety of matters related to current intergovernmental deliberations with direct implications for the work of the organizations of the system. ACC would, as required, deal at each session with a variety of administrative and operational issues, including those arising from the reports of its main consultative committees. ACC would in addition, as appropriate, receive written progress reports on various ongoing issues. Matters requiring action by ACC would normally be dealt with in the first instance by the Organizational Committee, which would propose, as appropriate, draft decisions, conclusions or recommendations to ACC.

3. Taking those considerations into account, the Committee established a provisional list of items to be placed on the agenda of ACC at its first and second regular sessions of 1992. The list of items is indicative, since the Organizational Committee would make final proposals regarding the agendas at its meetings held prior to the first and second regular sessions of ACC.

A. Provisional list of items for consideration by the Administrative Committee on Coordination in 1992

1. First regular session of 1992

1. Dialogue between the Secretary-General and the executive heads on the role of the United Nations system in the 1990s and the contributions to be made by the organizations, individually and collectively

2. Topics for policy discussion

   A. Implications for the United Nations system of the economic transition process in Eastern and Central Europe and in the Commonwealth of Independent States

   B. Poverty, disease and underdevelopment: breaking the vicious circle

3. Topics for exhange of information

   A. United Nations Conference on Environment amd Development

   B. Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations

   C. UNCTAD VIII

4. Operational and administrative issues

   A. Operational activities for development

   B. Questions related to personnel

   C. Financial and budgetary questions

5. Other matters, including decisions adopted on behalf of ACC by its Organizational Committee

2. Second regular session of 1992

1. Topics for policy discussion

   A. Humanitarian and emergency assistance, including early warning

   B. Financing of growth and development

   C. Environment and development

      1. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

2. Annual report of ACC to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

2. Topics for exchange of information

A. Economic and Social Council: Follow-up to discussion at the coordination segment on acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and poverty

B. Interim and Development Committees

3. Operational and administrative issues

A. Operational activities for development

B. Questions related to personnel

C. Financial and budgetary questions

4. Other matters, including decisions adopted on behalf of ACC by its Organizational Committee

4. The Committee noted that the assumption of office of a new Secretary-General of the United Nations, who was also Chairman of ACC, presented another opportunity for a reassessment. In that connection, the Committee proposed that at its first regular session of 1992, ACC have on its agenda an item under which the Secretary-General and the executive heads would have an exchange of views on the role of the the United Nations system in the 1990s. Such an exhange would be a continuation of the discussion initiated by ACC at its first regular session of 1991 in Paris.

5. With regard to the two topics for policy discussion at the first regular session of ACC, it was agreed that the World Health Organization (WHO), after consultation with the relevant organizations of the system, would prepare a background paper on the topic of poverty, disease and underdevelopment: breaking the vicious circle. The United Nations would in a similar fashion prepare a background paper on the implications for the work of the United Nations system of the economic transition in Central and Eastern Europe and in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Descriptions of the specific issues to be addressed and of the focuses to be given to the discussion at ACC on those topics are found in the annotations to the ACC programme of work for 1992 (ACC/1992/1).

6. The Committee discussed the difficulties facing many organizations in connection with the payment of assessed contributions from States in Central and Eastern Europe and of the Commonwealth of Independent States of the former Soviet Union. It was agreed that the question should be referred to the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions) (CCAQ) (FB)), which would be asked, at its forthcoming session, to collect and analyse in a preliminary manner the relevant data from all of the organizations concerned. The issue could then be discussed by ACC at its first regular session.

7. The Committee reviewed the decisions of the Economic and Social Council, taken at its organizational session for 1992, on the themes for the high-level and coordination segments of the Council in 1992. The difficulty of adequately preparing documentation in such a short period of time was pointed out by members of the Committee. The Secretary-General of the United Nations had the responsibility of providing appropriate documentation for the theme selected for the high-level segment, which was "Enhancing international cooperation for development: the role of the United Nations system". The organizations of the system would be consulted in the preparation of the documentation. As concerned the two topics chosen for the coordination segment, documentation was to be provided by the Secretary-General as Chairman of ACC. It was agreed that the background paper on assistance in the eradication of poverty and support to vulnerable groups, including those affected during the implementation of structural adjustment programmes, would be prepared by the United Nations. Information previously provided for the thematic analysis on the eradication of poverty would be fully utilized, but additional information would need to be collected and analysed in order to cover all of the dimensions of that coordination theme selected by the Council. WHO was given the responsibility of preparing the background documentation on prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and programmes addressed to the mitigation of its negative socio-economic consequences. The relevant organizations of the system would be consulted in the preparation of the paper. The Organizational Committee, at its meeting held in conjunction with the first regular session of ACC, would be apprised of the status of the preparation of those two background papers.

8. The Committee also considered issues related to the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and ACC. It was noted that topics for the forthcoming Joint Meetings had not yet been selected. The Committee was also informed of discussions taking place concerning the possible change in the timing of the Joint Meetings. The Committee agreed to return to that issue at its meeting to be held in March of 1992. The United Nations would prepare a background note for that discussion.

B. Work programme of the Joint Inspection Unit

9. The Committee reviewed the work programme of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) for 1992. It was noted that the organizations to be the subject of JIU studies should be consulted by the Unit when its work programme was being formulated. Many members of the Committee expressed the view that the proposed study on the managerial capacity of the Secretary-General to enhance coordination was much too broad and general and should be revised.

C. Reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

10. The Committee, on behalf of ACC, took note of the report of the ACC Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources at its twelfth session (FAO Headquarters, Rome, 25-27 October 1991) (ACC/1991/PG/13).

11. The Committee decided to defer until its next meeting consideration of the report of the Ninth Inter-Agency Meeting on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (Vienna, 3-6 December 1991), contained in ACC/1991/PG/14. Clarification would be sought as to the status of the draft statement contained in the annex to the report.

D. Appointments to posts in the subsidiary machinery of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

12. The Committee held a preliminary exchange of views regarding appointments to posts in the ACC machinery which would be considered by ACC at its first regular session of 1992 and agreed to continue consideration at its meeting in March. Regarding the post of Coordinator of CCSQ (OPS), it was agreed that the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Operational Activities) (CCSQ (OPS)) should be requested to provide the Organizational Committee with a recommendation of a person to assume the post of Coordinator, and a date on which the new Coordinator would assume office.

E. Meetings in 1992

13. At its meeting in October 1991, the Organizational Committee approved the convening of a number of meetings under the auspices of ACC in the first half of 1992 (ACC/1991/2/Add.2, para. 27).

14. The Committee, on behalf of ACC, approved the convening of the following additional meetings in 1992:

(a) Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, Geneva, 6-10 April 1992;

(b) Task Force on Science and Technology for Development, New York, 27-29 April 1992;

(c) Joint United Nations Information Committee, Rome (FAO Headquarters), 7-9 July 1992;

(d) Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, Paris (UNESCO Headquarters), 5-7 October 1992;

(e) Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources, New York, 7-9 October 1992.

15. The Committee discussed the overall problem of the timing of the meetings of its subsidiary bodies, some of which do not meet sufficiently far in advance of the meetings of the Organizational Committee for their reports to be reviewed in an appropriate manner. It was agreed that the subsidiary bodies should be informed that the Organiational Committee would not be in a position to take action on reports of subsidiary bodies unless those reports were completed and transmitted to the organizations at least one week in

advance of the meeting of the Organizational Committee. For that purpose the dates of the Organizational Committee meetings would be communicated to the Chairmen of subsidiary bodies as soon as they had been determined.

F. Information on activities of organizations regarding (a) the economic transition in Central and Eastern Europe and in the Commonwealth of Independent States and its implications for the work of the United Nations system and (b) the economic and other consequences of the conflict in the Gulf

16. The Committee has previously agreed to compile and distribute information regarding the activities of the organizations in these two areas. It had before it two consolidated notes which contained the information provided by the organizations. Organizations which had not yet provided information regarding their activities in these two areas would be able to do so as long as their contributions were received by 20 February 1992.

G. Other matters

17. The Committee returned to the issue of the executive summaries of the activities of the specialized agencies, to be provided to the Economic and Social Council under the terms of Council resolution 1989/114. It was noted that the summaries might not have been utilized as intended and that the staff and other costs required to produce them constituted a considerable burden for which there was no commensurate benefit for the Council or the agencies.

18. The Committee agreed to request its Chairman to informally bring that problem to the attention of the Council secretariat and of member States. It would be desirable if the specialized agencies could provide the Council with an existing document. That would permit the relevant information to be made available to the Council in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The Committee would take up the issue again at its March 1992 meeting at which time it would have before it a note prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The note would relate to the issue and to more general problems associated with reporting requirements.

19. The attention of the Committee was drawn to a draft ACC decision presented by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) which concerned the geographical and gender balance of resident coordinators. It had not been possible to take action on the draft decision at the previous meeting of the Committee following the second regular session of ACC in 1991. It was agreed that the draft decision should be referred to CCSQ (OPS) for its views, which would be conveyed to the Organizational Committee at its meeting to be held in March 1992.

II. ANNUAL OVERVIEW REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION

20. The Committee reviewed the text of the draft annual overview report of ACC for 1991. The report was in principle approved. A revised version would be prepared by the ACC Secretariat, taking into account suggestions made by members of the Organizational Committee. The revised report would be circulated, and organizations could submit additional comments before the end of February 1992. The final report would then be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) at its thirty-second session (New York, 4-29 May 1992) and to the Economic and Social Council at its regular session of 1992 (New York, 29 June to 31 July 1992). Subsequently, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 44/194 and 45/254, the report would be made available to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session together with the relevant conclusions and recommendations of CPC and the Economic and Social Council on the report, in accordance with existing practice.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairman: E. ter Horst (United Nations)

Secretary: J. Renninger (United Nations)

United Nations entities and programmes

Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation	E. Tsui M. Ikegame
Department of International Economic and Social Affairs	S. Khan V. Kryzhanovsky
Department of Technical Cooperation for Development	T. Shrestha M. Marchal
Department of Administration and Management	C. Thornberry V. Guerassev
United Nations Office at Vienna/United Nations International Drug Control Programme	S. Bryant
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	G. Rao A. Celik
Regional Commissions New York Office	B. Widyono
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	M. K. Khaw
United Nations Environment Programme	S. M. Osman
World Food Council	K. Starr Newell
United Nations Children's Fund	B. Ogun
United Nations Development Programme	J. Beagle E. Wilkens
United Nations Population Fund	S. Mousky J. Peterson M. C. Arismendy
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	P. Kourula
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	W. Lee
World Food Programme	T. Tomlinson

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Specialized agencies, IAEA and GATT

International Labour Organisation	R. Harari
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	K. Killingsworth J. Camara
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	E. Armerding
International Civil Aviation Organization	E. W. Faller
World Health Organization	Y. Kawaguchi I. Brüggemann M. Bekele
World Bank	W. D. Haddad
International Monetary Fund	R. Bhatia H. Shugarman
World Meteorological Organization	J. B. L. Breslin
International Maritime Organization	F. Labastida
World Intellectual Property Organization	K. J. Suedi
International Fund for Agricultural Development	V. Gathright
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	H. S. Halloway

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International Atomic Energy Agency	B. Andemicael M. O'Dell
General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade	A. Frank